



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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## **MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM GETS A BOOST** *Helen Bader Foundation Grant to Fund Additional Teen Jobs*

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett announced a \$100,000 grant from the Helen Bader Foundation will help the city and Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board expand the number of summer work opportunities for teens this year.

"I want to thank Dan Bader and the Helen Bader Foundation for its investment in our future workforce," said Mayor Barrett. "We've got 3,000 teens who want to work this summer and I believe this is Milwaukee's chance to prepare its future workers with skills and a connection to careers that meet tomorrow's workforce needs."

Mayor Barrett said the grant funds will expand the number of community-based jobs for teens with 70 different organizations under his Earn & Learn Summer Youth Employment program. Earn & Learn offers teens the opportunity to work in community-based, non-profit organizations, in city internships and in jobs with the private sector. Teens are also offered job readiness training and educational support in conjunction with the program.

Mayor Barrett is making a special plea this week to Milwaukee businesses to help create at least one summer opportunity for a teen. The Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board can assist with identifying tasks and providing businesses with an idea of how a teen can 'shadow' and work at the same time.

"If Milwaukee's businesses could take on a teen or two this summer, collectively we are preparing to compete globally in the future with a well-prepared, skilled workforce," said Barrett. "If we start today, we're better positioned in the future."

Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board CEO Donald Sykes says through the expansion of the community-based summer youth jobs, the board is increasing its focus on youth who have dropped out of school and those youth most at-risk.

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“We believe we have an incredible network of community organizations that can reach out and engage the youth who most need to be redirected towards development opportunities,” said Sykes.

*Businesses seeking more information on hiring a pre-screened teen should visit [www.mkedcd.org/EarnLearn](http://www.mkedcd.org/EarnLearn)*